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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

MEMORIALS AND MEMORIES

FROM every foreign country have come the most heartfelt expressions of grief over the death of Isabel Hampton Robb. Our pages do not give us space to reprint them, but they are all remarkably alike in expressing the warm human regard for a character whose personality had impressed every one from the first. One speaks of Mrs. Robb's "gentle force," and all feel that they have lost a personal friend who had enriched their lives simply in coming into them.

The British nurses are proceeding to found a memorial to Miss Isla Stewart. At a meeting recently held in the Clinical Theatre of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Mrs. Fenwick, being asked to open the discussion, emphasized the paramount importance of the idea that the memorial should be inspired by the spirit of the lost matron. A fitting memorial should be of an educational nature. The meeting voted unanimously that the Isla Stewart Memorial should be of a national character, and take some educational form, to be decided by a committee formed for the purpose. In the meantime, it was decided to send a student to Teachers' College to take the course under Miss Nutting, a very gratifying event for us. The committee is composed of nurses representing all the important organizations of nurses of Great Britain and Ireland with which Miss Stewart had been in relation. So, in America and in the mother country, nurses are, at the selfsame moment, transmuting their sorrow over the loss of two of the staunchest and truest comrades their ranks ever included into the best kind of memorials,—living ones, which shall harmoniously and joyfully carry on the memory of the departed ones to inspire the younger generations.

AN INSULT TO THE DEAD

While nurses of all countries are mourning Miss Stewart, a most unheard of insult to her memory in the shameless attempt to wipe out all the influence of her lifework has been the action of the election committee in selecting her successor. Briefly,—for the news has come

after our pages have been set, the election committee of Bart's has chosen an assistant matron from the London Hospital; a woman who has never had a matron's experience, and one who is evidently meant to be only the tool of the anti-registration element in the hospital's committee, and, doubtless also, of the element who are willing to make huge profits for hospitals out of the sweated labor of nurses. The London Hospital sends out its pupils to private duty, besides running a large private staff for its own profit, and it is the central stronghold of anti-registration and of hostility to self-governing organizations among nurses. Its certificate, moreover, is given for one year less than Bart's, and the women who train there are not encouraged to think for themselves. It is well known that those of them who do, even when engaged in work of great distinction, *meet with an icy reception if they venture within the doors*. The details of this incident are such as to make one feel certain that a plot has been preparing before Miss Stewart's death; for the knowledge that she was doomed by an incurable disease was general. We shall give fuller details at another time.

LETTERS AND ITEMS

THE most cheering reports of the prosperous and successful opening and progress of the new training school in Rome are at hand. Miss Dorothy Snell, the English head, seems to have been born for the position she holds, and the whole story sounds too good to be true. Screens and bedbaths have been introduced, to the astonishment at first, and the satisfaction next, of the patients. Miss Turton writes: "The patients are leaving off calling perpetually for attention; they have learned that everything will be done for them in due time—and without 'the hateful tip.'"

The probationers' dresses are of green and white, and the screens of scarlet twill, "bringing a vivid note into the colorless wards," and making up the three colors of the Italian flag.

The head nurses, most of whom are from England, have a group of ten probationers to teach.

MISS BAXTER's school in Naples is also developing steadily; a new operating room and children's wards have been placed in Miss Baxter's charge, and she has an English nurse, Miss Bertha Tulloch from St. George's Hospital, as assistant, and night nurses for the children. This is an immense innovation, and two respectable night "chaperons" sit up at night to give the requisite air of propriety required by the nurses' parents.

Miss Baxter, in a letter, says: "I have now three head nurses: Miss Tulloch in the children's wards, and the other two, paid by the hospital, in the two operating rooms. Next year I shall have another in one of the male medical wards, paid by the Pathological Clinic to which two free wards are attached. . . . And, also, I am to have a permanent head nurse in the surgical dispensary . . . the most interesting thing about this is that the request came from the doctors and the hospital directors themselves. . . . I went to Rome on Friday in order to be present at the inauguration ceremony of the new school at the Polyclinic. It was very simple but very impressive. Queen Helena arrived at ten o'clock, and was received by the Princess Doria and Signora Maraini, who represented the committee, and by Miss Snell, Miss Turton, and Miss Clay, the Home Sister, and all the other nurses, consisting of four head nurses, about six staff nurses, and the pupils. One of the staff, the operating-room sister, is a pupil of my own, and I hope to send them another in the autumn. . . . I was very much exhilarated by my visit to Rome, as I found everything beautifully organized. . . . The queen was taken over the nurses' home, which is a perfect little gem, with its pretty white rooms and white enamelled furniture, the beds covered with rose-pattern cretonne;—every floor has its bath-room with modern plumbing of the most approved style. . . . She was very nice to me also and asked some kind questions about my Naples school. Afterwards she went to the wards nursed by the school. The Polyclinic has a capacity of 1260 beds."

DR. HAMILTON also has an English head nurse, Miss Edith Gregory, at the Protestant Hospital, and her work, too, grows continually and she and Miss Elston are hardly able to supply all the calls coming to them. During the past year the Protestant Hospital has had a peculiarly gratifying gift. A young Englishwoman of wealth, Miss Bryant, had taken the full course of training there, in order to prepare for the reformation in Italy, and upon leaving she endowed the hospital with a handsome sum to increase the salaries of all the permanent nurses, in order that Dr. Hamilton might have no trouble in getting and keeping head nurses of a high order. Miss Elston goes quietly on her shining way, her head unturned by all the successes and distinctions that come to her school: three of her nurses have recently been decorated by the War Department for valor in a typhoid epidemic in the army garrison of Saint-Brieuc, the ceremony taking place at the school in the presence of all the staff of physicians and nurses.

SPAIN comes next: The Bordeaux Nurses' Journal tells us that Mlle. Marie Zomak, a member of the German Nurses' Association, who had lived eight years in Spain before taking up a nursing career in Germany, has been called to Madrid to organize there the first school on the pattern of the "Florence Nightingale system," in the *Institut Rubio*, a small and well-endowed hospital which has always had secular nursing, and where she will have the support of a progressive physician and the important people of Madrid. This is a most interesting undertaking, and will be hopefully watched, while Mlle. Zomak will have the best wishes of her whole guild with her.

THE current number of the *Garde-Malade Hospitalière* shows in parallel columns the plagiarisms of Dr. Baccarani from the Hamilton thesis. They are wonderful to behold.

SISTER AGNES KARLL and Sister Maida Lübben have made a very careful statistical and explanatory study of the conditions of health of the 2500 or more Sisters in the Association. Our space does not permit us to go into details, but the findings are shocking in their evidence of overwork and premature exhaustion: Sister Agnes finds the average *working* time of the Sisters to be only *eight years and two months*. Early, and often incurable, invalidism, suicides from fatigue neuroses, premature death, and chronic over-fatigue make a melancholy story, yet of the 2500 all but seventy odd were in perfect health at the time of their entrance into training. Well may Sister Agnes call upon the public, the directors and physicians to open their eyes. For our part, we will say again that the kind of medical science that kills nurses to cure patients is in our eyes only a solemn humbug.

A valuable and unusual service has been done the German nurses by the collation and transcription of all and sundry laws and regulations of the empire and its federated states which have any bearing upon members of the nursing profession in their capacity as self-supporting women in a profession having educational features. Much of the book would be quite unintelligible to American nurses, as we have a much less carefully-regulated social order. Yet in spite of the elaboration of German laws, so rapidly has the modern profession grown, and so little had lawmakers and lords of creation thought about it, that it was almost impossible to find out what *did* concern nurses, either for good or ill. If officials in three different places were questioned on one and the same point, says Sister Agnes, four different answers were given! One each and one to spare! The collation made by Fräulein Charlotte Reichel has

an interesting history. The theme was given to her as a part of her higher studies as a laywoman. Inquiring in hospitals she found that no one knew anything, and what they did they were not allowed to tell. Frl. Reichel, therefore, entered hospitals, as our industrial investigators enter factories, and worked in them until she had practically encountered all the phases of a nurse's life which could or might come under the myriad statutes of the Fatherland. Sister Agnes, who has written a foreword to the book, considers it of extraordinary value both to nurses and to students of social and political economy.

THE Swedish nurses have formed a national association under a governing body consisting of nine nurses who represent prominent groups or institutions. The president is Sister Emmy Lindhagen, the vice-president, Sister Agda Meyerson; treasurer, Sister Bertha Wellin; and the secretary, Sister Estrid Rodhe. The headquarters of the association will be in Stockholm, where the charming little blue and white journal is already edited by Miss Rodhe. Our most cordial good wishes to the new association, and we hope to see it enter the International Council at Cologne.

MISS WALD writes from Japan: "We went to the graduating exercises of midwives at Dr. Saiki's hospital. Thirty-eight women completed one year's study which, after government examination, permits the practice of midwifery. These examinations are said to be difficult. Dr. Saiki is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and a post-graduate student of the Johns Hopkins. Most of these women returned to the hospital for an additional year of training to complete the course for a trained nurse's certificate.

"I addressed them, and the interpreter then made an elaborate speech in Japanese purporting to be my impromptu remarks. The room where we had the exercises was matted as usual, the students sitting on the floor. On the wall was the picture of the Empress who, 1200 years ago, nursed the lepers. We are having her story translated to you."

MISS HIBBARD writes from Havana: "We had a very serious explosion of dynamite at Pinar del Rio, on May 18th. The news of the disaster being telegraphed to the President, relief was organized at once under several groups, the Secretary of Sanitation leaving Havana with eighteen nurses and ten doctors just one hour and a half after the news came. The nurses under Seniorita Margarita Nunez and Seniorita Martini, the superintendent of the Mercedes hospital, are doing excellent work and

have been on duty on the spot since the 18th. This is the first time the Cuban nurses have been called to a scene of national disaster, and I do feel so proud of them;—all I hear is praise of their work and appreciation of the spirit they have shown. The nurses went by government order, as they could be mobilized much more quickly than by the Red Cross.”

THE Bordeaux nurses have entered with enthusiasm upon the anti-alcoholic crusade, and the April number of *La Garde-Malade Hospitalière* has a strong and impressive article of great value upon the destructive action of alcohol on race efficiency.

MRS. FENWICK sent a wreath of flowers to lay upon the bier of the late king, from the members of the International Council of Nurses, who, last summer, enjoyed a special mark of his kindness and regard for nurses in the never-to-be-forgotten visit to Windsor.

LIFE has a tendency to become a mere mechanical repetition of things done before. We do not conquer circumstance; we are conquered by it. How necessary, then, is a sudden break in daily routine, a turning away from our usual interests, a sharp summons to the soul to reassert her supremacy!—SAMUEL McCOMB, D.D., in *Good Housekeeping Magazine*.

DEFINITE instruction concerning the nature and methods of prevention of tuberculosis is being given to less than 6 per cent. of the public school children of the United States according to a bulletin issued by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis.